श्री बंगारू लक्ष्मण: मैं उनसे जानना चाहता हूं कि इस बारे में वे क्या कहना चाहते हैं?

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय सदस्य ने, जो मूल प्रश्न है, उससे बाहर सवाल पूछा है, लेकिन मैं उनको जानकारी देना चाहता हूं। जो रोलर मिल्स हैं, पहली बार, उपसभापति महोदया, एफ०सी०आई० के जरिए जो खुली बिक्री की जाती थी गेहूं की, उसको मैंने स्ट्रीम लाइन कर दिया है और तीन सदस्यों की एक समिति बना दी है, जिसमें स्टेट के डायरेक्टर आफ फूड मैम्बर हैं, एक और अधिकारी उसमें मैम्बर है, एक और मैम्बर हैं जो एफ०सी०आई० से हैं। तो एक तीन सदस्यों की समिति बना दी गई है और उस कमेटी को इंस्ट्रक्शन्स दी गई हैं कि जो लोग गेहूं लेना चाहते हैं, वे अपना आवेदन 1 तारीख से 7 तारीख तक दें, वह आवेदन 7 के बाद एग्जामिन होकर 14 तारीख तक निष्पादित हो जाएगा और गेहूं उन्हीं को दिया जाएगा, खासकर के कोआपरेटिव वालों को, कोआपरेटिव संस्था जो स्टेट्स में हैं, जहां भी हैं। इस तरह की जो जानकारी माननीय सदस्य दे रहे हैं कि डायरेक्ट बल्क कंज्यूमर को नहीं देकर, कुछ डायरेक्ट कंज्यूमर को दिया जाए ताकि उसको वह सस्ती दर पर मिल सके, ऐसा आवेदन हमारे पास, हमारे जानकारी में मंत्रालय में नहीं आया है। यदि इस तरह की जानकारी है तो दी जाए, लेकिन उसको एक अंडरटेकिंग देनी होगी। उसको एक अंडरटेकिंग यह देनी होगी कि वह सस्ते दर पर जिस गेहूं की एफ०सी०आई० से खरीद करेंगे, उसकी रोटी उनको सस्ते दर पर उपलब्ध करानी होगी। यदि यह शर्त, यह अंडरटेकिंग होगी तो गेहूं निश्चित रूप से दिया जाएगा। यह पहली बार हमने स्ट्रीम लाइन किया है डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन को, नहीं तो पहले 10,000, 12,000 जितना चाहते थे, लेते थे रोलर मिलर। हमने 200 टन उसका निर्धारित कर दिया है, अभी 500 किया है। तो जब अंडरटेकिंग वे दे देंगे तो मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। सस्ते दर पर बिस्किट यदि मैन्युफेक्चरर्स, बिस्किट मैन्युफेक्चरर्स मार्केट में आप लोगों को उपलब्ध कराएं तो उनको देने में कोई नुकसान नहीं है। मैं इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करूंगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTION

Exploitation of Workers of the Cloth Mills at Surat

*342. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of workers working in the various cloth mills at Surat in Gujarat;

(b) the mill-wise details thereof both in the public and private sectors;

(c) whether the workers in those mills are being exploited by the employers;

(d) whether the workers from Orissa who are working in those mills are not getting wages regularly and are asked to work for more than eight hours a day; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to protect those workers from the clutches of the employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) According to the information received from the Government of Gujarat, approximately 3300 workers are working in the various cloth mills at Surat in Gujarat. The mill-wise break-up of the workers in cloth mills at Surat is given below:—

S.No.	Name of the mills	No. of workers
1.	The Nirajan Mills, Surat.	650
2.	Standard Industries Ltd., Surat.	950
3.	The Surat Dist. Co. Operative Mills, Surat.	1500
4.	Garden Cotton and Yams Ltd., Surat.	200
	TOTAL:	3300

The State Government of Gujarat which is the appropriate Government for these Mills under the relavant Labour laws has intimated that by and large no complaints of exploitation of workers in

these mills have come to their notice. Whenever, instances of violation of any labour law have been reported, appropriate action is being taken under respective law.

Formation of a Dispute Settlement Panel at the Behest of USA

*344. SHRI SAIFULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India agreed to the formation of a Dispute Settlement Panel on the request of the U.S. to the World Trade Watch Dogs' Dispute settlement Body;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in regard to protecting pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical product patent; and

(c) the details of the policy of the Government vis-a-vis introduction of Patents Amendment Bill, 1996 to resolve Indo-US disputes in regard to the Patents Law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) In pursuance of the provisions of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement), on 2 July 1996, the Government of the United States of America had sought consultations with India alleging the absence in India of either patent protection or formal systems that permit the filling of patent applications for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products and that permit the grant of exclusive marketing rights in such products. The consultations were held on 27 July 1996.

The DSU provides that the complaining party may request the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO to establish a panel to examine the matter referred to it in the light of the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreements if the consultations fail to settle the dispute within sixty days after the date of receipt of the request for consultations. It also provides that a panel shall be established at the latest at the DSB meeting following that at which the request first appears as an item on the DSB's agenda, unless at the meeting the DSB decides by consensus not to establish a panel. In pursuance of the these provisions, on 7 November 1996 the USA requested the establishment of a panel to examine this dispute. The DSB, at its meeting held on 20 November 1996 considered this request and decided to establish a panel.

(b) and (c) As a signatory to the Agreement Establishing the WTO (WTO Agreement), of which the TRIPs Agreement is an integral part, India has certain obligations. Apart from the transitional obligations which came into effect from 1 January 1995, India has till 1 January 2000 to implement its obligations under the TRIPs agreement and till 1 January 2005 to introduce product patents in the areas of technology not protected so far. Under Section 5 of the Indian Patents Act 1970, only process patents are granted in the case of inventions which relate to food, medicines or drugs, and also in the case of substances prepared or produced by chemical processes. No patent for the product is granted in case of these inventions. Government of India is in the process of holding consultations regarding the content and modalities of the required amendment of the Indian Patents Act 1970.

Financial aid for development of tea industry

*346. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has assessed the final fund requirement for the development of tea industry in the country;